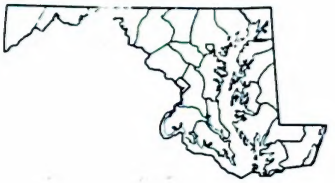
THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT



A Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. Vol. 3, No. 1, 1983 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1983

Editorial

As I write this, 'tis the season to be jolly. When you read it, I hope that one and all have had a fine holiday season and great Christmas Counts. Perhaps we can provide a summary of highlights of the various counts in the March-April issue. Copy will be needed for the wrap-up by Feb. 1.

A superior birding winter is also my wish for you. Although the predicted severe weather has not yet materialized in Ridge and Valley, we can still hope for delights like those experienced by many of us last winter. With pleasure I recall gyrfalcons, snowy owl, snow buntings and Lapland longspurs near Lancaster, Pa., pine grosbeaks and crossbills somewhat farther north, and common redpolls and pine siskins at our feeders. Already this fall has appeared a saw-whet owl near Hagerstown, but also some late summery types nearby-a hummingbird and yellow warbler on Nov. 23. Can spring be far behind? I expect to have to eat the last question!

The current issue of the *Yellowthroat* represents another milestone-a new volume for the New Year. I want to extend heartfelt thanks on behalf of present and earlier staff members to all who have contributed copy and support, including the MOS officers, board for the first two volumes, chapters and members. This is your newsletter, and I want it to provide what you want and are paying for.

I would also like to put in a "plug" for the current producer (including the preceding three issues), Tri-State Printing of Funkstown, with my personal appreciation for dependable accuracy and quality of appearance.

Reminders are also in order-applicants for MOS research grants should submit proposals to Charles Vaughn, Chairman, Research Committee, not later than January 15, 1983. (1306 Frederick Ave., Salisbury, MD 21801).

-if you haven't already, be sure to fill out and return your Volunteer Quest form from the Sept.-Oct. *Yellowthroat* to your chapter president.

-Cameron Lewis
(editor's address: 1908 Applewood Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740)

President's Comments

John Cullom

There are two very important activities coming up for the MOS. The first and most eminent is the reintroduction in the Maryland General Assembly of the non-game income tax check-off authority. This change will allow individuals to make voluntary contributions to the State Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund. This method of financing nongame programs has been very successful in 20 other states. There will be more detailed announcements later but the important thing is that the MOS supports the passage of this bill and hopes that you will individually. If so, you should make sure that your state representatives are aware of your feelings during the coming session. There is some opinion that the bill failed last year partially because of poor public support, so take every opportunity to make your feelings known.

The other activity is the 5-year statewide nesting bird atlas that is just starting. The Atlas is a grid-based project for mapping the present breeding distribution of every bird species in Maryland and D.C. Ours is part of a country-wide survey; in fact, the neighboring states of Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia are planning an Atlas during the same 5-year period. This is an opportunity for all of us amateur naturalists to engage in a project of real scientific significance. The results of the Atlas, in addition to providing present distribution and relative abundance of all species of birds that nest in Maryland and D.C., will provide a future reference on the changing effect of human activities on the state's avifauna. This will be a tremendous project, one that will require the birding services of everyone who is willing to participate. This is an opportunity to put real purpose in your birding. There will be more detailed announcements, and informational and training sessions at each chapter and elsewhere about the state. Look for them and plan your birding activities around the ATLAS!

News From The Sanctuaries

A very important event brought to almost perfect conclusion was the November 6, 7 Irish Grove Improvement Weekend. Seven Baltimore Chapter members joined 30 others from around the state for hard work, hearty meals, matchless birding and good conversation, all under the direction of Jim Stasz. Improvements are noticeable. Dr. Mike McAllister of Wicomico Chapter, Chairman of Irish Grove Sanctuary, brought that chapter out in full force, complete with turkey dinner and all the trimmings at noon. Our hard work was in direct proportion to the deliciousness of the meal. The feeling was at the close of the weekend that there should be more such weekends in the future. Look for them.

Joy Wheeler

(above item reprinted from the Baltimore Chapter newsletter, with permission)

Some curtains and soup bowls were donated to the house, in response to the earlier request.

Jim Stasz is leaving Irish Grove, because his "year in residence" is ending. The new contact to call for reservations, when you wish to visit Irish Grove, is Dr. Michael (Mike) McAllister, Salisbury, MD, phone 742-3935.

Junior Nature Camp Update

With the Forsythia flowering and the Spicebush budding, spring is obviously in the air (this was of course written in mid-November; by the time it sees print, things may well be a tad cooler). That, however, being the case, it may not be too out of place to begin thinking about Junior Nature Camp once again. Once more, when June rolls around, Camp Hashawa will open its gates to a horde of eager students of Natural History, scouring the hills and streams for such goodies as Red Salamanders, Queen Snakes, Great Spangled Fritillaries, and

(continued on page 2)

Washington Monument Hawk Watch

Mary Corderman

This is a summary of the sightings at the lookout at Washington Monument State Park for the fall season of 1982.

Species	Number
Sharp-shinned hawk	1652
Cooper's hawk	106
Goshawk	7
Northern Harrier	73
Red-tailed Hawk	1071
Red-shouldered Hawk	89
Broad-winged Hawk	1464
Bald Eagle	1
Golden Eagle	2
Osprey	88
Total	4553

The lookout was staffed during 69 days, with observation time totalling 320.6 hours.

The Washington County chapter appreciates and thanks all others who "dropped in" and helped, especially on those days when the birds were "way up" or " 'way out" there.

Junior Nature Camp

(continued from page 1)

Lesser Tasmanian Three-toed Bullfinches. Part of the fun, of course, is the appearance of new and different things every year; we may see a ball of bees hanging from a branch while swarming, perhaps a large Luna Moth shining under a light on an evening hike, or just something as pleasant as a large Green Frog hiding under weeds and leaves in a small pond. If that sounds like fun, I'd be glad to give you more information; just write me (John Robinson) at 1028 Harkins Rd. Pylesville, MD 21132 and I will fill you in, in great detail.

"Don't forget MOS Bookstore for your birdbook needs-see full page adv. in Nov. Dec. 1982 *Yellowthroat*

Adv.-The Talbot County Bird Club has a 10' x 8' movie screen which is damaged but could be patched up. An MOS group which can use this screen may have it for the sole expense of driving to the Oxford area to pick it up before January 25. For details, contact: Talbot County Bird Club; POB 612, Easton, MD 21601. (information sent in by Erica Woodman)

Saw-Whet Owl In Washington County

Norma Lewis

Late one night, a couple of days before Thanksgiving, we received a frantic call from a neighbor. She asked us to come to look at an injured owl. We assumed that she had found a screech owl. When we entered her kitchen, we were very pleasantly surprised to see a very small, earless bird sitting on the counter-a saw-whet owl. One wing appeared to be broken.

First thing the next morning, I took the ninety-seven grams of fluff, wings, stare and claws to the veterinarian. All day I waited anxiously for a call that the owl was ready to come home. The call did not come. When I phoned the next day, I was told to come over. The vet had X-rays which showed no broken bones. He explained his diagnosis of a pulled muscle or an injured nerve. Feeding the owl had been a problem, and the doctor suggested continuing with his steak diet for a few days.

Excitedly, I called a friend and told her that we had an injured saw-whet owl. Her first question was, "How do you know that it is a saw-whet owl? I never heard of one in Washington County (in many years of birding)!" Without hesitation, I assured her, "I know a saw-whet owl when I see one!"

Knowledgeable birders have since confirmed our identification. In addition, all visitors have agreed that he (?) is adorable, in spite of bandages.

Feeding the owl was tedious for several days. Bits of steak chopped in a blender were accepted from a blunt pipet. Next, he took strips of the meat from a spoon. When he suddenly snatched a strip with a claw and then held it up to his beak, I realized that This was the normal mechanism.

That night, a mouse from a trap was left close to him. In the morning, the mouse was gone, and a pellet had appeared. Ecstasy! (for me) Since no more mice appeared in our traps in the garage, we have been fortunate in having the cooperation of other human mousers.

We weighed the owl frequently when we were force-feeding. It was upsetting to find that his weight had dropped to ninety grams. But then he was adapting and ate ten grams in one brief session.

The owl fared better with a pre-weighed 12 or 15 grams of mouse, without the near-traumatic weighings of a feisty little predator.

We soon found out that it is illegal to keep even an injured bird of a protected species, so we turned the owl over to a Maryland Wildlife agent for further care.

A Snag Habitat Management Symposium

Acorn Woodpecker

Call For Papers

A Snag Habitat Management Symposium will be held on 7-9 June 1983 in Flagstaff, Arizona. This notice is a call for papers (15 mins.) relating to; 1) history and policy 2) current and new research 3) or management practices. A field trip is being planned during the last afternoon. Abstracts are due by 15 February 1983 to: Jerry W. Davis Program Chairperson, Tonto National Forest, P.O. Box 29070 Phoenix, Arizona 85038. Questions should be directed to Davis: (602) 261-4229.

MOS CALENDAR
JAN./FEB. 1983

January 4

TUESDAY EVENING AT CYLBURN. Baltimore. 8:00 p.m. "Fossil Birds As Ecological Indicators"-Bill Hilgartner, Naturalist at Irvine Nature Science Center. Cylburn Park Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore

January 6

MEETING. Frederick. 7:30 p.m. "Florida Wildlife"-Kathy Klimkiewicz. Frederick High School, W. College Terrace Entrance, Frederick. Contact: Dave Wallace (662-6753)

January 7

MEETING. Anne Arundel. 8:00 p.m. "Bird Life and The Artist"-John Taylor. Anne Arundel Co. Library, 1410 West Street, Annapolis.

January 8

MEETING. MOS Executive Council Meeting. 8:00 p.m. Cylburn Park Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore.

January 10

MEETING. Baltimore. 8:00 p.m. Board Meeting. Cylburn Park Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore.

January 13

MEETING. Howard. 7:45 p.m. "Encounters with Swans in Maryland, Alaska and Japan"-Dr. William Sladen. Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia.

MEETING. Montgomery. 8:00 p.m. Chevy Chase Public Library. "Earthquakes and Faults in Southern California"-Doug Morton. 8005 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase. Contact: Lola Oberman (365-1058)

January 15

FIELD TRIP. Kent Co. 8:30 a.m. Feeder Watch and coffee. Home of Dr. and Mrs. Hitchner, 54 Kinnard Point Drive. Worton.

FIELD TRIP. Harford Co. 8:00 a.m. Susquehanna State Park in the Winter. Meet at the old mill. Contact: John Wortman (939-3146)

January 16

FIELD TRIP. Howard. 1:00 p.m. Feeder Trip and Lake Elkhorn. Park on Broken Land Parkway by the L. Elkhorn Dam. Meet at crossover bridge on bike path below dam. Leaders: Donald and Martha Waugh (730-8841)

FIELD TRIP. Washington Co. 1:30 p.m. Meet at the home of Harold and Dinnie Winger, Emmert Road, Hagerstown for backyard birding.

January 19

MEETING. ALLEGANY. "Four Seasons"-Charlotte Folk. Contact: Claire Harris (814) 458-2624.

MEETING. Talbot Co. 7:30 pm.. "The Cave of The Owls," "The Blue Mountains" and Albra Malaga, Peru by Dr. Robert W. Trever. Maryland Room, Loyola Federal Savings and Loan Association, Harrison and Goldsborough Sts., Easton

January 20

MEETING. Caroline Co. 7:30 p.m. "Basket Weaving and Related Crafts"-Dr. Robert Trever. Meet at Education Bldg. of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Denton.

January 22

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 8:00 a.m. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Research Center. Birds in winter habitats followed by hot soup. Meet at Annapolis Mall Commuter Parking Area. Leader: Pam Lee (268-8029)

January 23

FIELD TRIP. Howard. 1:00 p.m. Bike Path Walk and Feeder Trip. Thunder Hill, Columbia. Meet at Grempler Realty parking lot, Columbia. Leader: Joe Lutz (964-3628)

January 24

MEETING. Wicomico. 7:30 p.m. "Bird Profile"-Lee Meinersmann. Jim Stasz will present a program on Gulls. Fox Room, Asbury United Methodist Church, Camden Avenue Extended, Salisbury.

January 25

MEETING. Washington Co. 7:30 p.m. "Wildlife Management Techniques Practiced in Washington Co."-Steve Bitner. Loyola Federal Savings and Loan, 32 N. Potomac St., Hagerstown.

MEETING. Patuxent. 7:45 p.m. St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 6th and Main Streets, Laurel.

January 29

FIELD TRIP. Washington Co. 8:00 a.m. Car trip for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and walk, weather permitting. Meet at Windy Hill Restaurant for breakfast, Rts. 68 &70, Clear Spring. Leaders: Don and Frances Cutchall.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Winter Walk to be announced. Contact: Dave Wallace (662-6753)

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. 7:30 a.m. Observation and field study of Gulls. Place to be announced. Contact: Jim Stasz.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. 8:00 a.m. Point Lookout. Winter ducks, Great Cormorant. Joint trip with Southern Maryland Audubon Society. Meet at St. George Island Bridge (from Beltway, take Rt. 5 through Leonardtown; turn right on Rt. 249 to St. George Island). Bring lunch. Leaders: Paul and Michael O'Brien (424-6491)

January 30

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 8:00 a.m. Winter adventure for hardy souls in search of rare birds. Meet at Annapolis Mall commuter parking area. Bring lunch. Leader: Jim Cheevers (224-2061)

CYLBURN OPEN HOUSE AND TEA. Baltimore. 2:00 p.m. "Beautiful Gardens of The Deep South"-Melvin Fader. Cylburn Park Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. 12:30 p.m. Rockburn Park Habitat Walk, co-sponsored with Howard Co. Rec. and Parks. Meet at Grempler Realty, Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, or 1:00 p.m. at the building in Rockburn Park. Leader: Chuck Dupree (796-1086)

February 1

TUESDAY EVENING AT CYLBURN. Baltimore. 8:00 p.m. "A Punctuational Model of Evolution"-Steven Stanley, Paleontologist at Johns Hopkins University. Cylburn Park Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore.

February 3

MEETING. Frederick. 7:30 p.m. "The Nature Conservancy"-Edward Seligmann. Frederick High School, W. College Terrace entrance, Frederick. Contact: Dave Wallace (662-6753)

February 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. 8:00 p.m. "On Safari In Africa"-David W. Holmes. Anne Arundel County Library, 1410 West Street, Annapolis. Hostesses: Ann Danoff and Doris Peterson.

February 5

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cape Henlopen-Ocean City. Both eiders, sea ducks, ocean birds. 8:00 a.m. at Security Square Mall near Equitable drive-in bank or 10:00 a.m. at entrance to Cape Henlopen State Park. Leader: Alex Hammer (761-7749)

FEEDER WATCH. Kent. Location to be announced. Contact: Pat Wilson (778-1005)

FIELD TRIP. Harford. 8:00 a.m. Eastern Neck NWR. Lunch at Hubbards. Meet at intersection of Rts. 222 and 40. Contact: John Wortman (936-3146)

FIELD TRIP. Howard. 1:00 p.m. Triadelphia Road Area Feeder Trip and Nature Walk. Meet at Grempler Realty, Little Patuxent Pkwy., Columbia. Leaders: Elaine and David Pardoe (531-6452)

February 6

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel 12:30 p.m. Baltimore Harbor. Watch the "jive turkeys." Meet at Annapolis Mall commuter parking area. Leader: Rhonda Brown.

February 9

MEETING. Carroll. 7:30 p.m. Westminster Library, 50 East Main St., Westminster. Contact: Jerry Newton (795-0664)

February 10

MEETING. Montgomery. 8:00 p.m. "Birds of China"-Don Messersmith. Chevy Chase Public Library, 8005 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase. Contact: Lola Oberman (365-1058)

MEETING. Howard. 7:45 p.m. "Archaeology of Howard County"-Lee Preston. Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia.

(continued on page 4)

(calendar continued)

February 11

MEETING. Baltimore. 7:30 p.m. Towson State University Ornithology Lab. "Bird Song"-Dr. Phillip Creighton. Tours through Ornithology Lab and Museum. Parking in Faculty No. Parking lot. Reservations for wine and cheese: Betty Taylor (323-5150)

February 12

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore/Carroll 7:45 a.m. Piney Run. Wintering waterfowl, white-crowned, tree and fox sparrows. Meet at Carrolltowne Shopping Center, Route 26, Eldersburg. Leader: Burton Alexander (997-3374)

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 8:00 a.m. Annapolis Neck. Waterfowl and winter residents from Hillsmere to Bay Ridge. Meet at Bay Ridge Shopping Center parking lot. Leaders: John and Helen Ford (267-8417)

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 8:00 a.m. Back River and Baltimore Harbor. Gulls. Meet in parking lot just inside entrance to sewer treatment plant. Leaders: Paul and Michael O'Brien (424-6491)

February 13

BACKYARD BIRDING. Washington. 1:30 p.m. Meet at home of Cam and Norma Lewis, 1908 Applewood Drive, Hagerstown. Contact: Norma Lewis (791-2516)

February 14

BOARD MEETING. Baltimore. 8:00 p.m. Cylburn Park Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore.

February 16

MEETING. TALBOT CO. 7:30 p.m. "Macchu Picchu" and the Amazon Basin Jungle, Peru, by Dr. Robert W. Trever.

MEETING. Allegany. Film, "Creatures of The Night." Contact: Claire Harris (814) 458-2624.

February 18

MEETING. Caroline Co. 7:30 p.m. "Strange Creatures of Australia"-Dr. Robert Trever. Room 3, Educational Bldg., St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Denton.

February 19

FIELD TRIP. Howard. 7:30 a.m. Mystery Trip to Eastern Shore. Visit at least one refuge for waterfowl and winter residents. Meet at Grempler Realty, Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia. Bring lunch and beverage. Be prepared to carpool. Leader: Joe Lutz (964-3628)

February 19/20

WEEK END FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Irish Grove. Please contact leaders one week in advance for details. Leaders: Kathy Trever and Jeff Effinger.

February 19/20/21

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 11th Annual Winter Weekend along the Atlantic coast. For details, call Jim Cheevers (224-2061)

February 20

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 8:30 a.m. Northern Baltimore County. Meet at Park-and-Ride lot on Mt. Carmel Road just west of I-83 interchange. Leader: Bob Dixon (472-2224)

February 22

MEETING. Patuxent. 7:45 p.m. St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 6th and Main Sts., Laurel.

MEETING. Washington. 7:30 p.m. "Landscaping for Birds"-Dr. Mabel Walter. Loyola Federal Savings and Loan, 32 N. Potomac St., Hagerstown.

February 26

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. 7:00 a.m. National Arboretum. Leader: Joe Hanfman. Coordinator: Bob Rasa (489-4094)

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 7:30 a.m. Coastal Trip, Cape Henlopen to Ocean City. Meet at radar tower parking lot at the point in Cape Henlopen State Park. For motel and restaurant suggestions, call leader: Henry Bielstein (292-9592)

FIELD TRIP. Washington. 8:00 a.m. Millville, Shenandoah River for ducks. Meet at Emma K. Doub School, Rt. 65, ½ mi. north of I-70, Hagerstown. Leader: Bob Keedy.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Waterfowl trip to be announced. Contact: Dave Wallace (662-6753)

YOUTH ACTIVITY. Baltimore. 10:00 a.m. "Nature Art" with E. Carey Kenney. Cylburn Park Mansion. Contact: Patsy Perlman (466-6908)

February 27

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 8:00 a.m. Baltimore Harbor. Meet at South Baltimore General Hospital, south parking lot. Wintering waterfowl. Leader: Jim Wilkinson (788-4793)

FIELD TRIP. Howard. 1:00 p.m. Feeder Trip and walk in floodplain in Vatage Point Area, Columbia. Meet at Grempler Realty, Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia. Leader: Eva Sunell.

CYLBURN OPEN HOUSE AND TEA. Baltimore. 2:00 p.m. "A Garden of Milkweeds"-Anneke Davis, nature photographer and collector of milkweeds. Cylburn Park Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore.

February 28

MEETING. Wicomico. 7:30 p.m. "Bird Profile"-Don and Carol Broderick. Talk on various types of feeders-John Dennis. Fox Room, Asbury United Methodist Church, Camden Ave. Extended, Salisbury.

All Chapter activities to be published in the Calendar column of the March/April issue of the *Maryland Yellowthroat*, should be received by January 24, 1983. Mail to:

Beulah Zander
P.O. Box 103
Uniontown, Md. 21157

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

MOS State Membership Dues: Active $5, Family $6, Junior (under 18) $1, Student (full-time) $2, Life $200. These are the dues for members-at large. If you wish to join one of the 14 chapters their active member dues are from $1 to $7 extra.

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